

Message Text

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EUR:JAARMITAGE

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R 1320Z FEB 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 029482

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CB, USSR

SUBJECT: SOVIET INTEREST IN THE FUTURE OF CAMBODIA

REF: MOSCOW 1676

1. WE DO NOT BELIEVE NEGOTIATIONS WILL BE POSSIBLE AT LEAST UNTIL KHMER COMMUNISTS HAVE BEEN CONVINCED THAT THEY CANNOT CAPTURE PHNOM PENH THIS DRY SEASON. IN THIS WE AGREE WITH SOVIETS.

2. NEVERTHELESS, WE ARE INTERESTED IN NEMCHINA'S EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST IN A SOLUTION OF THE CAMBODIAN PROBLEM, ESPECIALLY IN VIEW OF THE FRENCH REPORT THAT SIHANOUK, WHILE ON RECENT VISIT TO HANOI, MADE SOME #INTERESTING PROPOSALS" TO THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR FOR TRANSMITTAL TO BREZHNEV.

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3. WE WOULD THEREFORE ALSO BE INTERESTED IN SOVIET INTERPRETATION OF SIHANOUK'S POSITION AND THAT OF KHMER ROUGE AND BELIEVE IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO TRY DISCREETLY TO DRAW NEMCHINA OUT ON THESE POINTS. BEAR IN MIND HOWEVER THAT WE ARE NOT RPT NOT SEEKING AT THIS STAGE TO PROPEL GKR INTO NEGOTIATIONS SINCE COMMUNIST DRY SEASON OFFENSIVE IS AT ITS HEIGHT AND GKR'S BARGAINING POSITION WILL HOPEFULLY BE STRONGER IN A FEW MONTHS THAN IT IS NOW. THUS,

WHILE INTERESTED IN FURTHER EXPLORING SOVIET THINKING ON THE SUBJECT, WE THINK THAT THIS IS THE WRONG TIME FOR TALKS AMONG KHMER PARTIES TO BEGIN AND THAT MOSCOW IS PROBABLY THE WRONG PLACE.

4. ABOVE HAS BEEN DISCUSSED WITH AMB. STOESSEL. KISSINGER

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NNN

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

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